

Abstract The purpose of this study was to determine whether there were differences in the prevalence of risk factors for low back pain between two groups of nurses working in different departments. A cross-sectional study was conducted in a tertiary-level hospital in Mexico City. Two groups of nurses were selected from the medical-surgical department and the obstetrics-gynecology department. Data were collected by means of a questionnaire that included information about sociodemographic variables, work-related variables, and clinical variables. The prevalence of low back pain was higher among nurses in the obstetrics-gynecology department than among those in the medical-surgical department. This finding may be due to the fact that the obstetrics-gynecology department has more physical demands than the medical-surgical department.

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